

the citizens and all the property, in all sections of the State, upon a perfect equality in reference to taxation, except such as the General Assembly may, as a matter of courtesy or expediency, exempt from taxation. Now, if all are placed upon a perfect equality, who can suffer by the passage of this bill?

If then, Mr. Speaker, political equality be an essential principle of democratic republican government, and the revenue laws framed under the restriction which this bill proposes to strike from the Constitution, operate unequally and unjustly, are they not at war with the fundamental principles of our government? And if the *restriction in the Constitution and the revenue law framed under that restriction are at war with the principles of the government, are not Senators reduced to the necessity of surrendering either THE ONE OR THE OTHER?* And if they must yield the one or the other, which will they surrender, the *principle* or the *restriction*?

How then, Mr. Speaker, can it be called an eastern or a western measure? It is a great question of State policy, involving, not only a great cardinal principle of government, but the financial interest of every section and of the whole State.

The eighth objection to altering the Constitution is, that it will drive slaves out of the State.

Well, Mr. Speaker, where will these owners find a government under which they are as well protected at so little expense? Money is the motive power by which the machinery of government is propelled, and taxation the only means by which the supply of that motive power can be kept up, and property and persons the only subjects from which that supply can be drawn. Where then can they find a government which will protect them in the enjoyment of their property, and exempt it from taxation?

But, Mr. Speaker, if there is a Senator upon this floor, or a citizen within the limits of North-Carolina, whose soul is so contracted, whose heart is so utterly destitute of every emotion of patriotism as to be unwilling to contribute his